

Introduced: 08/20/19
Public Hearing: 09/03/19
Willow Library Project and Fish Creek Project
Separated into two pieces of legislation: 09/03/19
Postponed to 10/15/19: 09/03/19
Action:

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 19-071B**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY APPROVING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE FISH CREEK ACCESS PROJECT, FUND 480, PROJECT NO. 47031.

WHEREAS, per Borough code 23.05.070 (D)(2) *Land Management funds money shall be spent or disbursed as appropriated by the assembly and shall be appropriated for the following purposes only: capital improvements including, but not limited to, schools, trails, roads, streets, buildings, port infrastructure, harbors, air fields, park acquisition and development, utilities and property acquisition; therefore, this is an appropriate use of these funds; and*

WHEREAS, The Fish Creek Access project is a project the land and resource management division has been working on for seven years. The (approximately) \$6 million project would construct two bridges, improve 6.7 miles of winter ice road and add 12 miles of all season road to open up vast acreage in the west side of the Borough to agriculture, commercial use, forestry, materials extraction, public recreation, resource management, and settlement; and

WHEREAS, the two bridges and forest road will help develop the area between the Little Susitna (Little Su) and Susitna (Big Su) Rivers, opening up approximately 200,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, perhaps as important, the project also puts us at the doorstep of 6 million acres of land on the other side of the Big Su with oil and gas, mineral, agricultural, timber, and many other resources; and

WHEREAS, the challenge is and always has been, ACCESS to these resources; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is the critical first step to opening up this region for economic development; and

WHEREAS, a winter ice road to the area and two ice bridges across the Little Su were constructed in 2014. The project begins at the end of West Susitna Parkway southwest of Big Lake. Upgrade of the winter ice road to a two-way single lane all season resource recovery road (including two all-season bridges) is proposed; and

WHEREAS, the project includes one bridge constructed across the Little Su as well as one small bridge placed across a nearby stream; and

WHEREAS, extending the existing winter ice road approximately 12 miles across Borough and State land will connect it near the preferred crossing point for the future bridge across the Big Su; and

WHEREAS, upgrading this proposed 12-mile ice road to a two-way single lane all-season resource recovery road will require additional study and funding; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has already expended \$400,000 on 6.7 miles of winter ice road; and

WHEREAS, project costs include 1) Pioneer Road and unnamed stream crossing (\$1.43 million), Bridge over the Little Su, West approach & turnaround (\$4.41 million) and A/E fees (\$450,000) for a total project cost of \$6,290,000; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has \$1.5 million in the Land Management permanent fund that can be allocated for this project. Our goal is to utilize these funds for grant match to cover the balance of project costs. If grant funds or other partnerships cannot be secured, these funds would simply go back to the Land Management Permanent Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Assembly hereby approves the following amended budget for the Willow Library Project, Fund 435, Project No. 10186; and approves the scope of work and budget for the Fish Creek Access Project, Fund 480, Project No. 47031.

Scope of Work
Fish Creek Access Project No. 47031

The goal is to utilize these funds for grant match to cover the balance of project costs

Project Budget

Land Management Permanent Fund	
Appropriation, Fund 203, to	
Fish Creek Access Project,	\$1,500,000.00
Fund 480, Project No. 47031	
 Total Budget for Project No.	
47031	\$1,500,000.00

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this day
of , 2019.

VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)